

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-14 and 16-18 have been amended. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-14 and 16-18 have been revised to correct typographical errors.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(A) as being unpatentable over Craft et al. (US 7,124,205), hereinafter “Craft”, in view of Boyd et al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0049600), hereinafter “Boyd”. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons that follow.

Applicants respectfully object to the use of Boyd as a reference in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Specifically, Boyd may qualify as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Moreover, Applicants submit that Boyd was owned by and the current Application (10/733,734) was subject to an obligation of assignment to International Business Machines Corporation of Armonk, New York at the time the invention of the current Application was made. For the above stated reasons, the above-referenced 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-40 based on

Boyd is improper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-40 are allowable and respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Jianping Zhang/

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